METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING CONCURRENT, COORDINATED COMMUNICATIONS ON SEPARATELY MANAGED NETWORKS.

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Response to Claim Objections:

(Currently amended)
1. A method for establishing a plurality of data sharing connections in a data communication service among a plurality of users who are concurrently communicating on a first communication service, each user respectively associated with one member of a plurality of user accounts, said data communication service distinct from the first communication service, and the method comprising the steps of:

    a)   associating a session record with at least two user accounts, each user account identifying one member of the plurality of users communicating with one another on said first communication service, the user account selected from the group consisting of permanent and temporary user accounts,

    b)   identifying said session record for at least one data sharing connection between a software process acting in behalf of a terminal device on said data communication service and a session manager, the association based upon an account identifier provided through said software process and corresponding to at least one user of the terminal, thereby establishing the data sharing connections for the at least one software process,

    c)   associating the session record with information to be conveyed across said data communication service to the at least one terminal device,

    d)   sending the information over the at least one data sharing connection, each connection associated with said session record.,

    whereby a plurality of users will receive the information sent by at least one user over the data communication service while they remain connected to each other on the first communication service.

(Original)
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of specifying data sharing privileges for the at least two users of said data communication service such that the at least one of the users can send and receive information and the at least one of the other users can only receive information.

(Original)
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of specifying data sharing attributes for at least one user account of said data communication service such that the information is transformed in accord with said attributes.

(Original)
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of ending the data sharing connection for the at least one terminal on the data communication service when the user of said terminal is no longer communicating over the first communication service.

(Original)

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a communication appliance used with the first communication service is distinct and independent of the terminal device used with the data communication service.

(Original)
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the first communication service interconnects a plurality of networks designed for voice communication.

(Original)
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the data communication service is accessed through a plurality of networks designed for data communication.

(Original)
8. The method of claim 7 wherein each member of said plurality of networks is selected from the group consisting of television broadcast networks, wireless packet networks, dial-up data networks, and broadband data networks.

(Currently amended)
9. The method of claim 7 wherein the data communication service is a television narrowcast service transmitting signals for display on a television a-over a digital network selected from the group consisting of a plurality of cable networks, satellite television networks, and low power wireless television networks.

(Original)
10. The method of claim 9 wherein said account identifier is automatically provided through the data communication service when the television is tuned to a specific channel

(Original)
11. The method of claim 1 wherein said account identifier is entered manually through said software process acting on behalf of a terminal on the data communication service before said software process communicates with the session manager.

(Original)
12. The user account of claim 1 wherein said user account is identified by at least one account identifier, said account identifier formed by combining components selected from the group containing telephone numbers, email addresses, instant messaging addresses, account logins, geographic addresses, personal identification numbers, spoken utterances, handwriting, and biometric characteristics.

(Currently amended)
13. An-A system for sharing information on a data communication network based on concurrent connection among a plurality of users communicating with one another on a first communication network, the data communication network distinct from the first communication network, comprising:

   a) a plurality of terminal devices for retrieving multimedia information from a plurality of information sources on said data communication network,

   b) account management means for determining a user account for each of the at least two members of said plurality of users who are communicating with one another on the first communication network, the user account selected from a group consisting of permanent and temporary user accounts,

   c) first means for associating a session identifier with the at least two user accounts, each user account identified by a user account identifier.

   d) terminal software means for establishing a connection on a data communication network between at least one terminal device and a session manager, said connection providing an account identifier, thereby establishing session access for the at least one terminal device,